



Exploited & Missing Child Unit

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Dear Attorney General Schmidt, Chairman King and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

As the current Chair of the Executive Board for the Wichita-Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit, I wanted to write in support of Senate Bill 61 regarding Human Trafficking legislation.

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit is a collaborative effort formed in 1985 to investigate allegations of child abuse. Those dedicated investigators have seen an increase in cases involving Human Trafficking, specifically Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Though these cases are difficult to investigate, we have seen some success in bringing those that would prey on youth to justice. This success is based on partnerships with community groups such as Anti-Sexual Exploitation Roundtable for Community Action - ASERCA, Sedgwick County Child Advocacy Center and ICT-SOS as well as our partners at the Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office.

This legislation would not only be helpful in the area of investigations and prosecutions but would allow additional penalties for those seeking to purchase the innocence of these youth for their own divisive needs.

Additionally, this legislation would allow for more coordination to identify these victims and provide the necessary services to prevent re-victimization. We know that most of the victims do not self-identify and will need services to get out of this life of servitude. The first 72 to hours of these investigations is critical for both criminal investigations as well as victim assessment and service.

Again, as Chair of the Executive Board of the Wichita-Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit, I support and encourage this bill moving forward to further collaborative efforts in addressing this community issue. One child being sold into servitude is one child too many.

Sincerely,

Norman D. Williams
Chief of Police
Wichita, Kansas
Chair
Executive Board of Wichita-Sedgwick County
Exploited and Missing Child Unit

